

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1031

STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MT
SUBJECT: U. S.- MALTESE COOPERATION REGARDING NARCOTICS

REF: VALLETTA 0252

1. FROM MY ARRIVAL IN MALTA LAST YEAR BNDD AND CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES IN EUROPE HAD SHOWN A HIGH INTEREST IN VISITING MALTA TO ESTABLISH CONTACT AND CONTINUE RELATIONS IN FIELD OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC SUPPRESSION. FOR VARIOUS REASONS, FIRST VISIT OF BNDD AND CUSTOMS REPS FROM ROME DID NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL JANUARY 1973 (REFTEL). WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THE REPS FROM THE TWO AGENCIES, MOLITTIERI AND TARALLO, GAVE A VERY IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF THEIR COMPETENCE IN THIS FIELD DURING MEETINGS WITH POLICE, CUSTOMS AND WITH PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF. THEY EXPRESSED THEMSELVES AS EAGER TO ENGAGE IN INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND TO ARRANGE FOR TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MALTESE POLICE OFFICERS. THEY PROMISED TO TRACE SHIPS AND CREW MEMBERS REGULARLY VISITING MALTA FOR POSSIBLE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND ALSO INDICATED THEY WOULD BE SENDING PERIODIC REPORTS AND BULLETINS. IN SPITE OF SEVERAL FOLLOW- UPS BY THIS EMBASSY WE HAVE HEARD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING SINCE. MALTESE POLICE HAVE INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER THERE WILL BE ANY FEEDBACK FROM U. S. ANTI-NARCOTICS APPARATUS AS PROMISED IN RESPONSE TO INFORMATION THE HAVE PROVIDED RE SUSPICIOUS SHIP AND CREW LISTS.

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2. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR TRAINING AS PROPOSED BY BNDD AND CUSTOMS REPS, FROM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SEPTEL).

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS IS A FIELD IN WHICH THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF REAL AND SIGNIFICANT U. S.- MALTESE COOPERATION, BENEFITS OF WHICH WOULD ACCRUE AT LEAST AS MUCH TO U. S. AS TO MALTA. I HOPE THAT S/ NM WILL BE ABLE TO GET SOME ACTION FOR US IN THESE FIELDS. IT IS TO SAY THE LEAST EMBARRASSING TO HAVE HAD THE JANUARY VISIT AT THE REQUEST OF BNDD AND CUSTOMS REPS, TO HAVE PROMISED OR IMPLIED A BROAD DEGREE OF COOPERATION WITH MALTESE, AND NOW TO FIND THAT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAS RESULTED. MALTESE HAVE PROVIDED OUR AGENCIES WITH INFORMATION AND HAVE HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN RETURN.

4. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN ANOTHER VISIT BY THESE REPRESENTATIVES UNTIL SOME RESULTS ARE APPARENT FROM FIRST VISIT AND UNTIL THEY DEMONSTRATE WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT EMBASSY ON ROUTINE MATTERS OF FOLLOW- UP BETWEEN VISITS. WILLINGNESS TO CARRY OUT A TRAINING PROGRAM WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT BUT WE SHOULD ALSO BE PROVIDING MALTESE POLICE AUTHORITIES WITH AT LEAST SOME FLOW OF INTELLIGENCE ON NARCOTICS TRAFFIC THROUGH THE MEDITERRANEAN. GETZ

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